

a fair face may cover a deformed mind, and is at best a short and uncertain recommendation ; but piety and virtue are sure and lasting perfections, which will always entitle the woman that is blessed with them to veneration and esteem.

A good wife is not only to relieve her husband under his household cares, by the kindness of her humour and the cheerfulness of her conversation ; but is likewise to lighten those cares, by dividing them with him, and bearing her part of the burden. The least that is to be expected from a wife is, that whilst the husband is busied abroad, or in affairs that call off his attention from the care of his family, that care be supplied by her. This constitutes the true character of a good wife ; at least, that part of it which is of principal and most universal use in life.

The good economy of a family is a business of a very distinct nature from that of making a provision for the support of it. The care of providing for the family, for the most part, rests upon the husband ; because that is a business of more labour and fatigue than women are ordinarily able to undergo. But then the administration of what is so provided is the woman's province. Thus is the labour of life divided ; and if either fail in their proper business, the affairs of the family are in a ruinous way. Upon this fact is founded that known observation.—That a man must ask his wife whether he shall be rich : forasmuch as few men are able to take sufficient care both abroad and at home ; and foreign care will be of small use, if the domestic be neglected. Therefore it is that Solomon, in the character of a good wife, tells us, that “ the heart of her husband shall safely trust in her ; so that he shall have no need of spoil : ” (Prov. xxxi. 11 :) that is, she will manage his household affairs with so much prudence and fidelity, that her husband shall need no indirect methods of fraud or oppression to support her luxury and extravagance. “ She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.”

Now as the care of the house and the family is the immediate and direct duty of the wife, it is evident that this duty cannot be discharged if she be addicted to rambling and going abroad, and do not delight to dwell with her family. Indeed a disposition to run abroad, and neglecting the care of her household, is an argument of a light and a vain mind. All women that would be deemed modest and virtuous should avoid this character of neglecting their husbands and homes, as an instance of ill conduct, that will lead them into many others.

Solomon has observed, that the ant is a fine emblem and example of industry ; and the observations of modern naturalists have made this emblem yet more instructive to us, in the distribution of conjugal care. The male ants, they tell us, are, at a certain age, furnished with wings, to facilitate their acquisition of food ; whereas this advantage is denied the female, inasmuch as their province is the distribution of what is acquired.—*Delany.*